MARVEL
27
.com
THE INITIATIVE
HUDLIN
PORTELA
DIRECT EDITION
RATED T+
$2.99 US $3.75 CAN
BLACK PANTHER
NIKO
2007

PREVIOUSLY

Unfettered by the yoke of colonization, the African warrior nation of WAKANDA flourished and became a high-tech, resource-rich, ecologically-sound paradise—one that makes the rest of the world seem primitive in comparison. Ruling over this kingdom are the BLACK PANTHER and his queen, STORM.

The Black Panther is more than just a head of state, the leader of a warrior cult. He is the embodiment of the ideals of a people. While T'Challa's marriage to Storm was a happy occasion, the couple was reminded that Wakanda faces difficult times ahead. Now more than ever, Wakanda needs the Black Panther to preserve its integrity and guide its people.

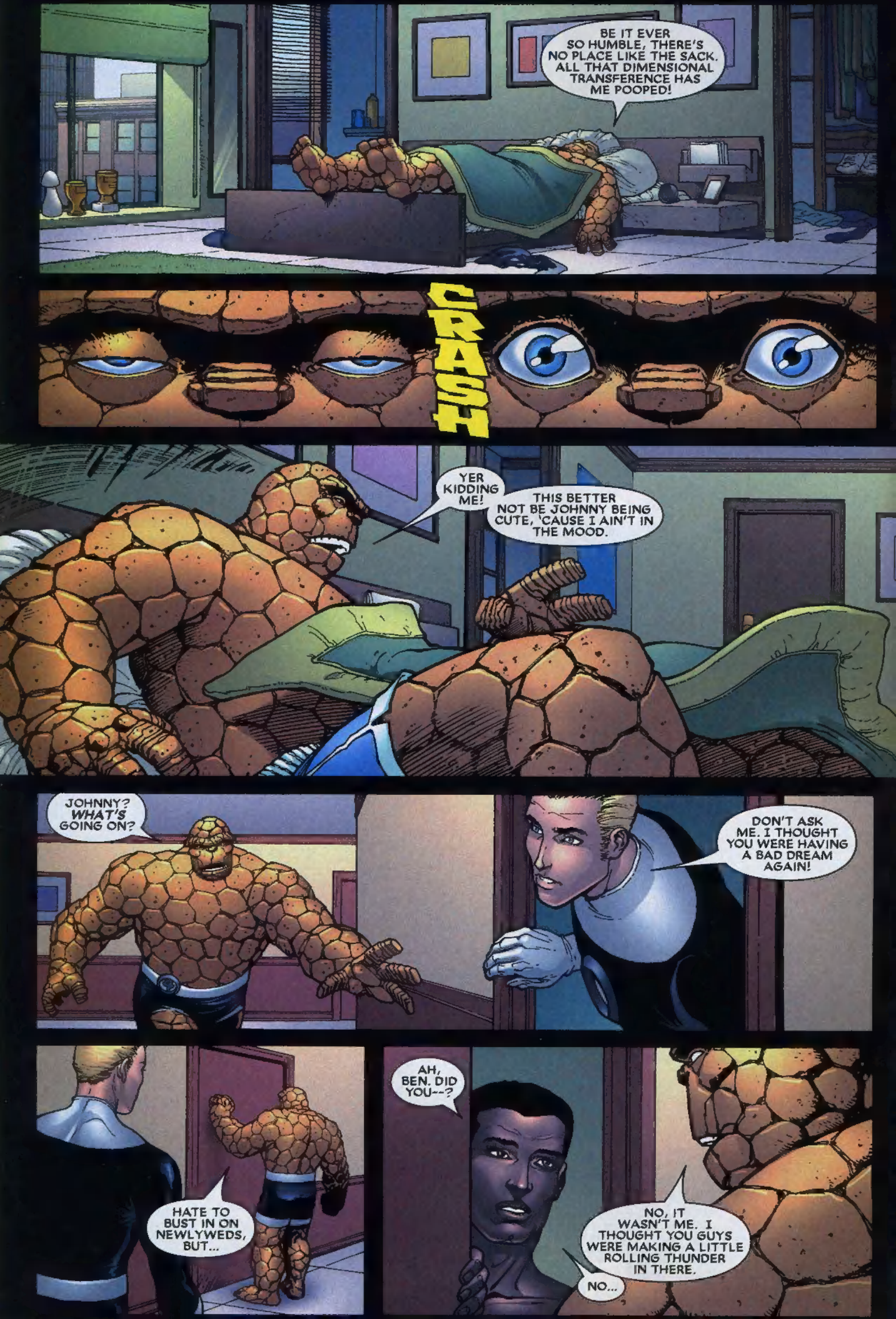
At the conclusion of America's super hero civil war, the newlyweds found themselves in desperate straits: on the losing side of the fray, at odds with Wakanda's ruling council, and without an embassy in the United States. However, their luck seemed to change when Reed Richards and Sue Storm offered the couple residence in the Baxter Building and their places in the Fantastic Four. Little did Storm and T'Challa know, though, that they would not be the only new guests at the Fantastic Four's headquarters...

BLACK PANTHER (ISSN #1540-0255) **No. 27, June, 2007.** Published Monthly by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. **PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** © 2007 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $3.75 in Canada (GST #R127032852) in the direct market and $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand; Canadian Agreement #40668537. **Printed in the USA.** Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. $27.00; Canada $37.00; Foreign $39.00. **POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO BLACK PANTHER, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 110 NEWBURGH, NY 12550. TELEPHONE # (800) 217-9158. FAX # (845) 457-5029. subscriptions@marvelsubs.com.** ALAN FINE, CEO Marvel Toys & Publishing Divisions and CMO Marvel Entertainment, Inc.; DAVID GABRIEL, Senior VP of Publishing Sales & Circulation; DAVID BOGART, VP of Business Affairs & Editorial Operations; JIM BOYLE, VP of Publishing Operations; DAN DARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. GABRIE, Managing Editor; SUSAN CRESPI, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Malmone, Advertising Director, at jmalmone@marvel.com or 212-576-8534. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.

TWO PLUS TWO PART TWO

REGINALD HUDLIN WRITER | FRANCIS PORTELA PENCILS | VICTOR OLAZABA INKS | VAL STAPLES COLORS | VC'S CORY PETIT LETTERS | NIKO HENRICHON COVER | DANIEL KETCHUM ASSISTANT EDITOR | AXEL ALONSO EDITOR | JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF | DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

YOU WEREN'T SURE YOU WERE GONNA MAKE IT HOME, BEN?
YOU KIDDING ME? AFTER THE WAY YOU DELIVERED ON THAT LITTLE EXCURSION, YOU COULD SELL ME THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE AND I'D PAY CASH!
TO FIND OUT WHERE THE NEW FF WAS AND WHY THEY'RE RETURNING WITH TWO GUESTS IN TOW, SEE FANTASTIC FOUR #544-546. - EDITOR.
I'M A LITTLE TIRED AFTER ALL OF THAT. I THINK I'LL TAKE A NAP.
SOUNDS GOOD. I'M GOING TO CHECK ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WAKANDAN EMBASSY SETUP HERE IN THE BAXTER BUILDING.
BELOVED... PERHAPS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER TAKING A LITTLE NAP, TOO?
"NAP"... RIGHT.
NOW THERE'S SOMEBODY WHO COULD SHOW REED A THING OR TWO ABOUT PRIORITIES!


BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE, THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THE SACK. ALL THAT DIMENSIONAL TRANSFERENCE HAS ME POOPED!
CRASH
YER KIDDING ME!
THIS BETTER NOT BE JOHNNY BEING CUTE, 'CAUSE I AIN'T IN THE MOOD.
JOHNNY? WHAT'S GOING ON?
DON'T ASK ME. I THOUGHT YOU WERE HAVING A BAD DREAM AGAIN!
HATE TO BUST IN ON NEWLYWEDS, BUT...
AH, BEN. DID YOU--?
NO, IT WASN'T ME. I THOUGHT YOU GUYS WERE MAKING A LITTLE ROLLING THUNDER IN THERE.
NO...

"ORORO IS ALREADY CHECKING ON THE CHILDREN."
FRANKLIN? VALERIA?
GODDESS!
F-ZRAAAAAAAT
ZAWAT!
STAND BACK-- SQUAAACK!
MISS ORORO? IS THAT YOU?
WE DIDN'T MEAN FOR HERBIE TO ATTACK YOU. HE WAS PROTECTING US FROM THAT BUG.
"BUG"?

SOMETHING IS LOOSE. FROM THE *NEGATIVE ZONE*, APPARENTLY.
HOW CAN YOU TELL?
IT CRASHED INTO THIS WALL HERE WHEN IT ARRIVED THROUGH THE PORTAL FROM STARK'S PRISON, 42, THEN SLAMMED THROUGH THIS DOORWAY HERE, THEN SMASHED THOSE STEPS THERE...
OKAY, OKAY-- I *GET* IT. WHERE IS IT NOW?
THIS IS VERY DISTURBING...
NOW WHAT?
THE BAXTER BUILDING'S DEFENSE SYSTEM IS VERY ELABORATE...
"...BUT THIS CREATURE...
"...IT SEEMS TO HAVE OVERCOME EVERY OBSTACLE."
SO EITHER WE BUILD A BETTER MOUSETRAP--
--OR IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME.
I'M BETTIN' ON THE LATTER.

HELP!
FZZZT
BACK UP, MONSTER! OR DIE BY THE HAND OF A WAKANDAN WARRIOR!
KRAK
URGK.

NO EATING HOUSEGUESTS, BIG-AND-UGLY!
SPLUCH
FINE, YOU WANT MORE, JUST ASK...
WHUD
WHAK
THUD
CHUD

HEY!
WHAT'RE YOU--?
WHAT A REVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENT...
WHOA!
YOU OKAY?
SO FAR...
OKAY, UGLY, YOU'RE TOUGH...
...BUT ARE YOU INSULATED?

NOT PROMISING.
FWOOSH
ACK!
WHOOSH
WHUD

ARE YOU OKAY, JOHNNY?
WHEW... THANKS FOR THE GUST!
AND YOU, BENJAMIN?
PEACHY. GOT A FEW DOZEN ASPIRIN ON YA?
WHERE'S YOUR HUSBAND?
ROOTING THROUGH REED'S TOY ROOM, I BELIEVE.
FZAAAAAT
NOW THAT YA SOFTENED HIM UP...
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!

AND WHAT DOES *THIS* DEVICE DO, ROBOT?
CONCEIVED AND BUILT BY REED RICHARDS IN LESS THAN 36 HOURS, THIS DEVICE AMPLIFIED THE COSMIC ENERGY IN--
THANK YOU, ROBOT.
REED IS A GENIUS, BUT HIS FILING TECHNIQUE LEAVES SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED.
RIIIIINGGG
INCOMING CALL--FROM S.H.I.E.L.D.
TELL THEM I'M BUSY.
THEY *INSIST.*
HMMM...
FINE, PUT THEM THROUGH...
WE'RE DEALING WITH THIS INVASION OF 42, AND CHECKING THE SECURITY CAMS, LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A BOGEY IN THE BAXTER BUILDING.
I'M DEALING WITH IT NOW, COMMANDER HILL.

WE CAN SEND YOU SOME HELP IMMEDIATELY--
NOT NECESSARY.
DOESN'T HAVE TO BE S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS. COULD BE AVENGERS, OR A NEUTRAL TEAM IF YOU--
I SAID: WE WILL HANDLE IT.
GOODBYE.
I HATE A BUREAUCRAT WITH DELUSIONS OF ADEQUACY.
ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY CAN'T HANDLE WHAT'S ON THEIR PLATE ALREADY.
RIIIIINGGG
THE ROYAL PALACE OF WAKANDA CALLING, SIR.
CALL BACK!

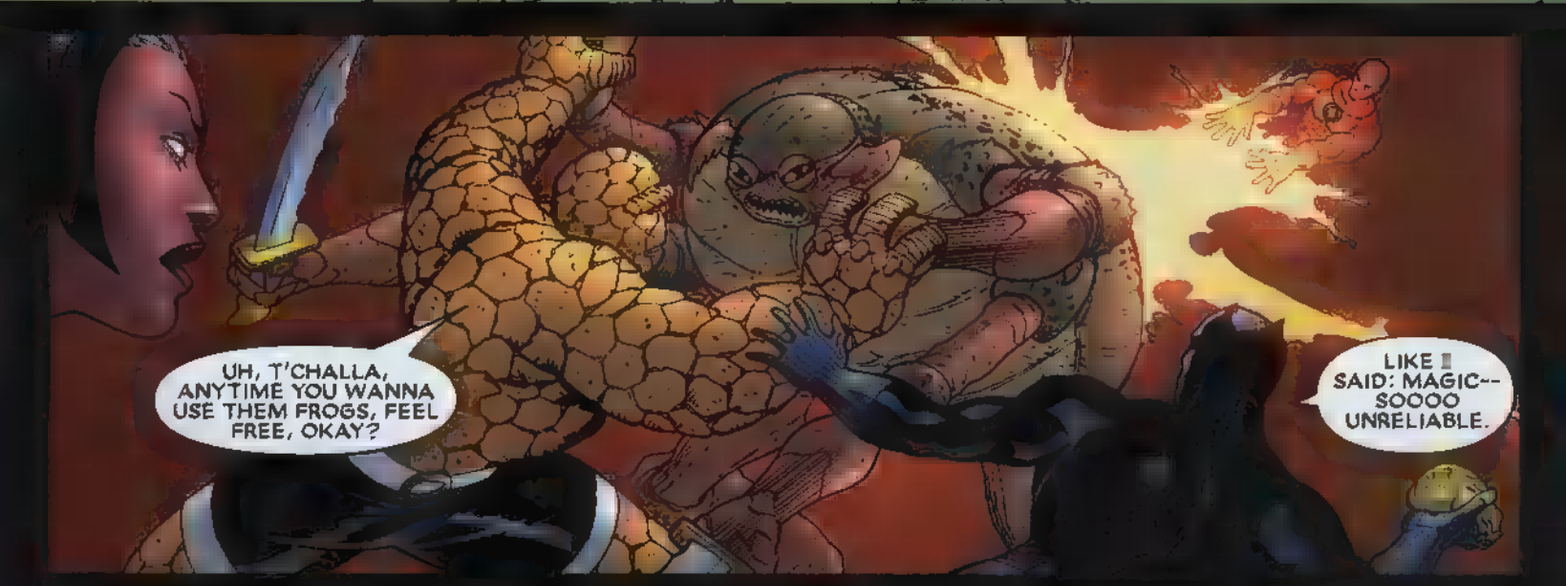
WAKANDA...
I DON'T GET IT.
WHY DOESN'T THE KING BLOW THEM OUT OF THE WATER?
PERHAPS [redacted] DOESN'T WANT TO START A WAR. NOT A BAD IDEA.
NO DISRESPECT TO YOUR BROTHER--HE IS MY COUSIN, AFTER ALL--BUT HE'S BEEN [redacted] THE WEST TOO LONG. HE'S GOTTEN SOFT.
YOU WON'T THINK HE'S SOFT WHEN HE TAKES YOUR HEAD FOR TREASONOUS TALK!
T'CHALLA ISN'T THAT WAY, G'MAL! YOU DON'T KNOW HIM LIKE I DO!
OH YEAH? ARE YOU SAYING HIS REPRIMAND TO THE COUNCIL DIDN'T HAPPEN?
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
YES, HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

WHAT DOES IT *MATTER?* WE ALL KNOW. SO THE WALLS HAVE [redacted]S... AND WHISPER.
IF THAT IS THE CASE, THEN WATCH WHAT YOU SAY, G'MAL. YOUR FRIENDSHIP WITH MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WILL NOT BE ENOUGH TO SAVE YOU.
ME? IT'S *NOT* ABOUT SAVING ME. IT'S ABOUT SAVING OUR *NATION!*
AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE DOING THAT?
YOU STEP UP, SHURI, AND ACCEPT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A LEADER OF THE NEXT GENERATION. TAKE CHARGE WHILE YOUR BROTHER IS GONE.
I TOLD YOU. NO.
I KNEW IT.
OF COURSE YOU KNEW IT. I'M SURPRISED YOUR LIPS COULD EVEN SAY IT.
THEN HOW ABOUT THIS:
WE SAIL OUT UNDER COVER OF NIGHT AND CHECK OUT THESE [redacted] BAD AMERICANS IN THEIR WARSHIP.
YOU'RE MAD!
YOU'RE DANGEROUS. YOU'RE A BAD BOY.
DON'T WORRY. I DON'T BITE.

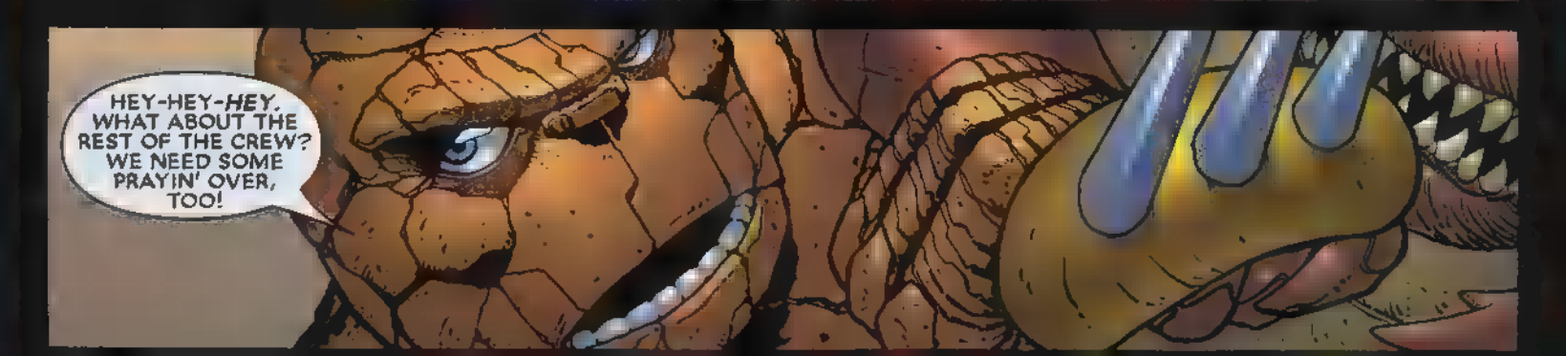
DON'T LET UP!
WHAP
OKAY, NOW WHAT?
OH GOD, HE'S EATING THE FURNITURE! THOSE [redacted] ANTIQUES!
COULD BE WORSE. COULD BE YOU.
MAYBE HE [redacted] ROUGHAGE IN HIS DIET.
AH, [redacted] YOU ARE, T'CHALLA.
WHERE YOU BEEN? BAZOOKAS-'R'-US?
STAND CLEAR!

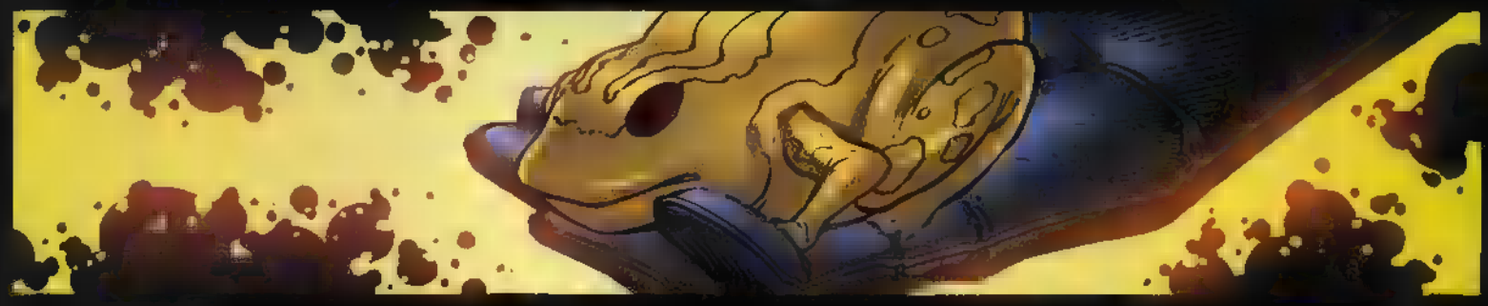
BLAAAM
THIS FOAM HARDENS LIKE STEEL ON IMPACT!
FWOOMP
AWWW, WHAT A REVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENT!

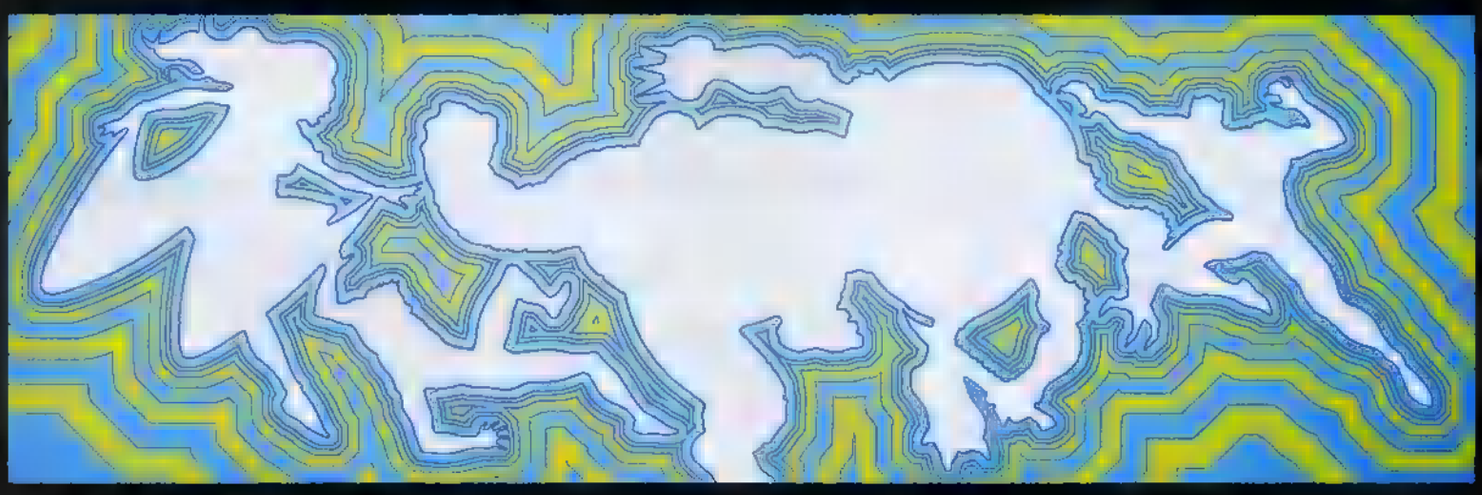
WAITAMINUTE-- WHAT'S HE LOOKING AT?
UH-OH, HE'S LOOKING AT THAT BIG WOODEN WATER TANK LIKE IT'S A *PORTERHOUSE STEAK!*
WE'VE GOT TO SHUT HIM DOWN BEFORE HE BREAKS THROUGH THE WALL AND PUTS THE WHOLE CITY IN DANGER!
ANYTHING ELSE IN YOUR BAG OF TRICKS?
AW, NOT THOSE FLIPPING *FROGS* AGAIN!
NO OFFENSE TAKEN.
I DISLIKE USING MAGIC--IT'S SO UNRELIABLE--BUT IT'S OUR BEST BET NOW. IF WE HAVE TO GET THAT THING--I MEAN *CREATURE*--
--BACK TO THE NEGATIVE ZONE WITHOUT OPENING THE GATE AND ALLOWING MORE INVADERS TO ENTER.
BUT THE FROGS NEED PROXIMITY. THAT MEANS GETTING CLOSE TO HIM-- AND SURVIVING.
THAT'S RIGHT.
LET'S DO IT.

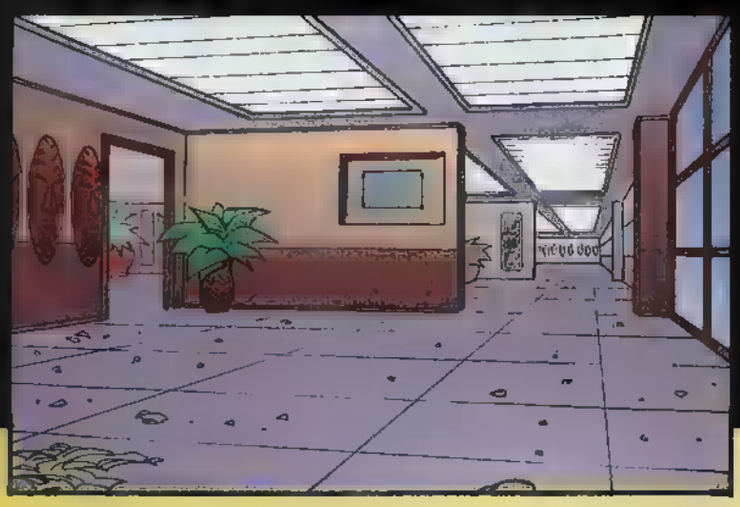

UH, T'CHALLA, ANYTIME YOU WANNA USE THEM FROGS, FEEL FREE, OKAY?
LIKE I SAID: MAGIC-- SOOOO UNRELIABLE.

PANTHER GOD, PLEASE WATCH OVER OUR LEADER.

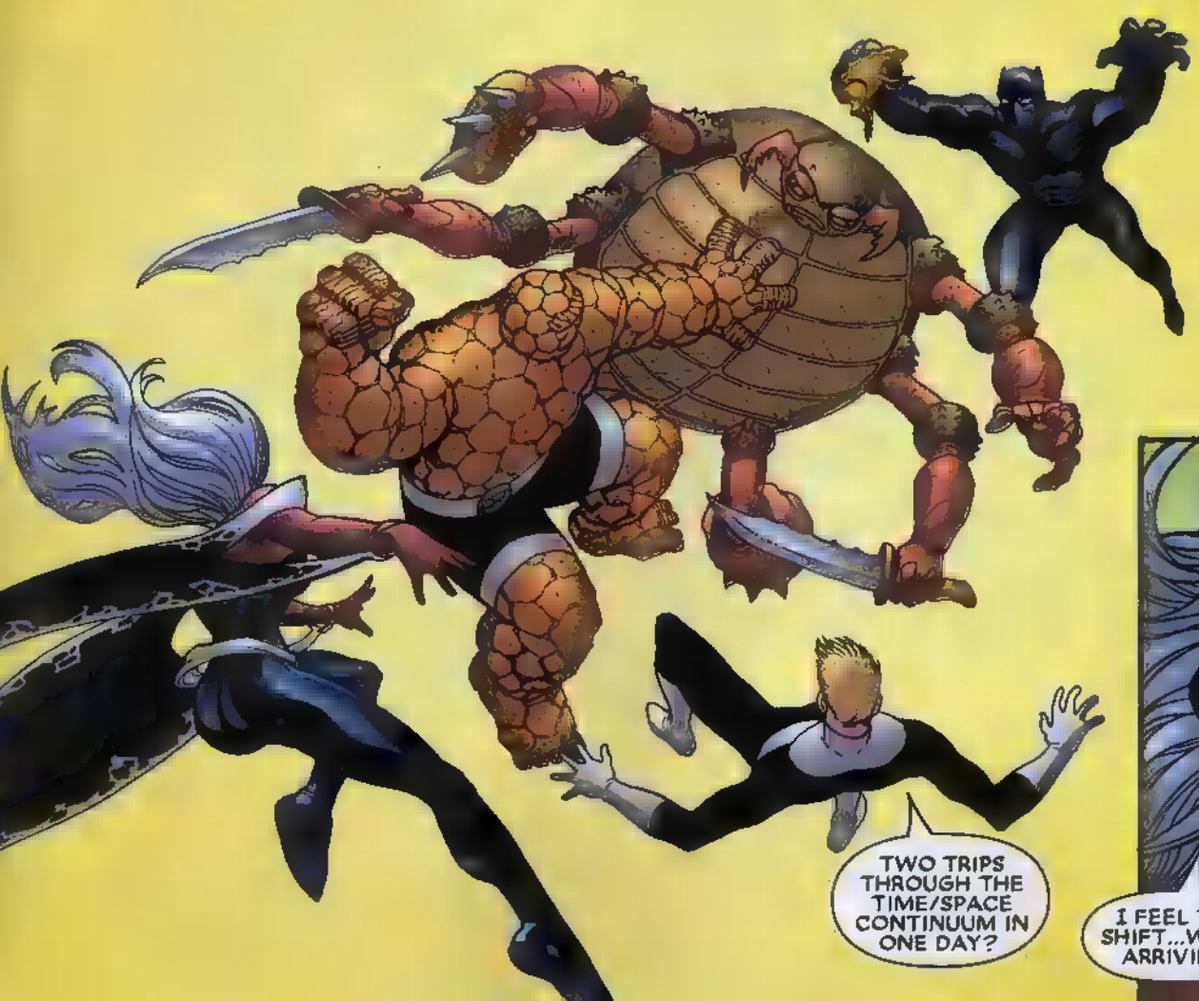

HEY-HEY-HEY. WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE CREW? WE NEED SOME PRAYIN' OVER, TOO!



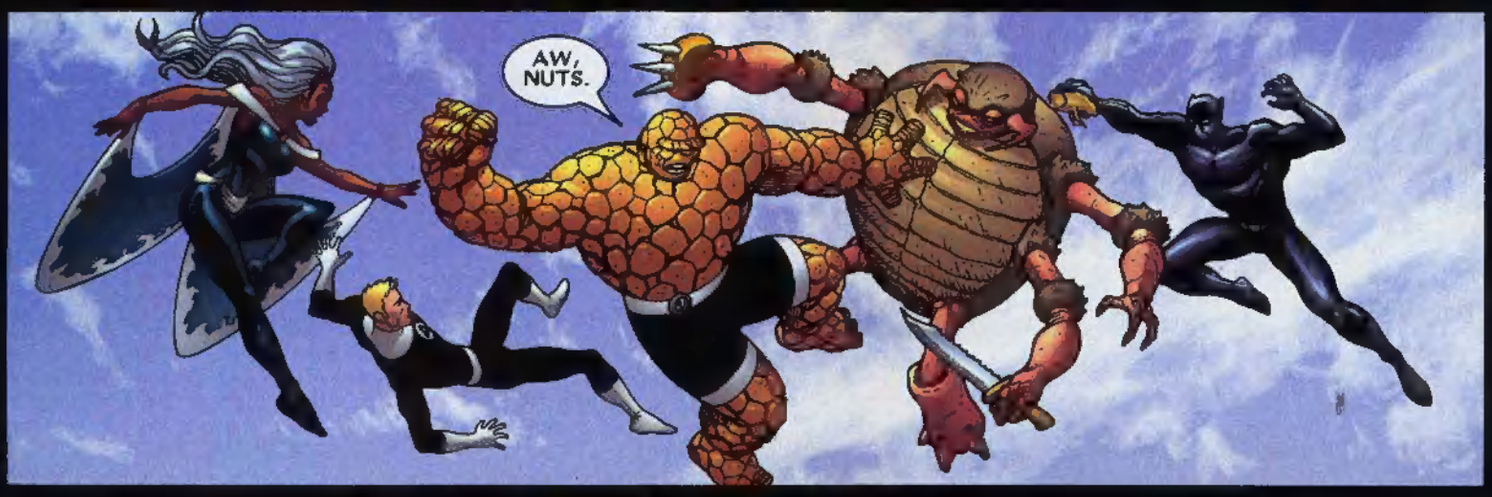




W-WHAT JUST HAPPENED?


TWO TRIPS THROUGH THE TIME/SPACE CONTINUUM IN ONE DAY?

I FEEL THE SHIFT...WE'RE ARRIVING.


AW, NUTS.

FLAME ON!
SWEET AUNT PETUNIIIAAAAAA!

THUD
SMASH
BEN, ARE YOU OKAY? I THOUGHT YOU ALL HAD A PLAN FOR WHEN THINGS LIKE THIS HAPPEN.
WE DO: SUE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME... I'M PEACHY. SHARP AS A TACK.
BELOVED, PERHAPS...?
NOW WHERE'S THAT BUG?
ACTUALLY, FORGET THE BUG. WHERE ARE WE?
UH, TEAM...?
BEN, YOU AND I HAVE GOT TO ENGAGE HIM NOW!
STORM AND JOHNNY--GET THE CIVILIANS OUT OF HERE. AND WHEN YOU GET SOME ALTITUDE, TRY AND FIGURE OUT WHERE THE FROG HAS TAKEN US!
UH, T'CHALLA... ACTUALLY, I THINK I'VE GOT A GOOD IDEA WHERE WE ARE.
AN UNSTOPPABLE BUG AND SKRULLS. COULD THINGS GET WORSE?

UH, T'CHALLA.
THEY JUST DID.
FP AFTER SP
NEXT: ZOMBIES!

NEXT ISSUE